Streamlined Islands, Chryse Planitia, Mars

Streamlined landforms (or "islands") such as these are low hills with elongated tapered shapes. These examples formed at the mouth of Tiu Vallis. Similar landforms occur at the mouth of Ares Vallis and other outflow channels in this area of Mars. Most are oriented parallel to the direction of flow and were most likely formed by flowing water during flood conditions. This image is 43 kilometers across.

Streamlined landforms similar to these occur in central Washington state. The area, called the channeled scablands, formed during catastrophic floods from glacial Lake Missoula, which existed in Idaho during the last ice age. Repeated failures of the ice dam forming the lake triggered flash floods in Washington, scouring the land into landforms like these.

Mars Pathfinder landed successfully at the mouth of Ares Vallis in July 1997.

Location: 17.3° N, 37.1° W

Mission: Viking 1

Image Numbers: 004A11, 004A57

3-D Tour of the Solar System



use 3-D glasses to view image